



IN MEMORIAM

FREDERICK BARREDA SHERMAN, JR. 1927-1999

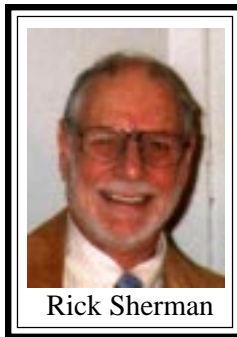
Inside:

- IN MEMORIAM PAGE 1
- MONTGOMERY HOTEL "MOVIN' ON DOWN" PAGE 1
- FROM THE PRESIDENT PAGE 2
- JOHN OLSON NEW PACSJ PRESIDENT PAGE 4
- PACSJ PARTICIPATES IN TWO LOCAL EVENTS PAGE 4
- PACSJ ANNUAL HOLIDAY PENNY-ROLLING PARTY PAGE 4
- PACSJ MEMBER TO EXHIBIT PHOTOS PAGE 4
- A STROLL ALONG EL DORADO STREET PAGE 5
- NEW BOOK ON BUNGALOWS PAGE 5
- JULIA MORGAN, ARCHITECT PAGE 6
- FINIALS AND FRETWORK PAGE 8
- PACSJ TOURS HISTORIC SAN FRANCISCO PRESIDIO PAGE 9
- JOICE/BERNAL RANCH RESTORATION TO BEGIN IN SPRING PAGE 10
- LANDMARK GERMANIA HALL DAMAGED BY FIRE PAGE 10

Preservation Action Council of San Jose lost one of its most vital, loyal members when our president, Rick Sherman, passed away on Friday, August 27, 1999. Rick had served on the board of directors for two years, and was elected president of the board in February of 1999. During that short time Rick enthusiastically supported our efforts to preserve the historic fabric of San Jose, and then skillfully guided us during a time of much consternation and changes in the preservation field.

Rick is survived by his wife, Marcella Merl Miller Sherman of San Jose, and his 103 year old mother, Cornelia Ripley Sherman of Mill Valley. He leaves behind many friends in the educational, ceramic and historic preservation communities.

Frederick Barreda Sherman, Jr., was born in San Francisco, and counted many prominent persons among his ancestors, including William Tecumseh Sherman. Rick's great-grandfather, Federico Luciano Barreda, was the Peruvian ambassador to the United States in the 1860s, during Lincoln's presidency. His aunt was married to Willis Polk, the prominent architect who designed San Jose's First Church of



Rick Sherman

Christ Scientist which faces St. James Park. Rick spoke often of his father, and recounted that his father was the first "incubator" baby born in San Francisco.

Rick graduated from San Jose State University and spent ten years in the education field, teaching English, drama and speech

Continued on page 3

MONTGOMERY HOTEL "MOVIN' ON DOWN"

by Tom Simon

If you have not been down First Street lately you might be surprised to see some dramatic changes at the Montgomery Hotel. After this summer's vote by the city council to save and relocate the Montgomery, work has moved briskly to prepare for the early February move date. The relocation is not the best choice for preservation of the building. However, it is preferable to demolition.

The move will actually involve lifting the building by the ceiling of the ground floor. This means that most of the first floor's original material will be lost. However, years of remodeling have already destroyed most of the first floor's historic fabric. Fortunately, many examples of original designs

Continued on page 11

NEWS FLASH

The San Jose City Council voted to save the Jose Theatre. Unfortunately, there are no current plans in place to restore the building. The city will buy the Jose and allow Jim Fox to develop a housing project on that block.

This edition of Continuity is dedicated to the memory of Rick Sherman.



From the President

by John Olson

Rick Sherman passed away in August after a summer-long illness. Rick was, to me, a long-time and knowledgeable San Jose resident, an energetic preservationist, a great storyteller, and a fun person to be around, and we deeply miss him. I was his vice-president, and have been elected to succeed him, which would be an even more daunting undertaking if it weren't for the strength and activism of current and past board members and our enthusiastic general members. They do the heavy lifting.

A few years ago, I was fairly new in San Jose and hadn't gotten around to thinking much about its history or buildings. While going to lunch one day, I discovered what looked like an old-fashioned demonstration happening in front of the Jose Theatre. It was an amazing sight for San Jose, complete with signs, speeches, and musicians. I think I must have signed a petition, and somehow I must have signed up to help. Today, that crazy little group of PACSJ members on the Jose Theatre Task Force, with the backing of the whole organization, has saved the Jose Theatre with the energy they unleashed, and PACSJ has got me hooked on historic preservation as a vital quality-of-life factor.

As you have read, the Montgomery Hotel is being packed up for a move 150 feet south, making way for the Fairmont's new annex. Mayor Gonzales' intention is that San Jose will have both the Montgomery Hotel and the Fairmont Annex, and the Redevelopment Agency has adopted its original course, to see it restored as the fine hotel it once was.

Answering the proposal to move the hotel created a difficult discussion and vote for our board of directors, whose strong preference is to leave it where it is. The proposed move introduces new risks, expenses and compromises to the historic context of the Montgomery Hotel. The board voted not to support moving the hotel. At the same time our goal has always been to prevent the *demolition* of the Montgomery, and we have achieved this goal. For this reason, PACSJ voted not to pursue escalating legal action to prevent moving the hotel. This moves us down the road toward settling our lawsuit, which was filed to prevent the hotel's demolition.

Despite the board vote, PACSJ recognizes Mayor Gonzales came out early in support of saving the Montgomery Hotel and the Jose Theatre when, prior to his election, he promised preservation. He is delivering on that promise. He has also ensured the safety of the Jose Theatre; nego-

tiations proceed on related implementation issues. We respect this, and want to work with him.

A promising by-product of the Montgomery Hotel controversy is an unprecedented series of weekly meetings, at which representatives from PACSJ, the Redevelopment Agency, and the Landmarks Commission discuss the ongoing status and issues of the move, and occasional other issues. Having these three groups sitting at the same table weekly is an incredible way to start building better relationships and share information. The hard work of both PACSJ and Mayor Gonzales in bringing preservation to City Hall has paid off.

Nothing's gotten easy, however. There are still way too many threatened buildings. PACSJ's first need today isn't to find more members or more money; it is to move our militia onto the field to help. There needs to be an application of energy for not only fighting fires, but also for organizing our membership before an emergency occurs. We need organizational-minded people to help apply our volunteer base; activist-minded people to adopt, research, and follow particular properties and development projects; and still others to attend various daytime or nighttime meetings.

I am excited to see PACSJ has developed into a mature, viable, powerful player in San Jose. The statewide organization, California Preservation Foundation, acknowledged these qualities when it presented PACSJ with its 1999 President's Award, citing... "the Preservation Action Council of San Jose is recognized for its outstanding achievement as an effective local nonprofit preservation organization. The council has served as a watchdog for historic buildings in San Jose, and promoted their restoration and preservation. PACSJ has, on occasion, waged full-scale campaigns on behalf of endangered buildings. PACSJ has matured to become a persuasive community voice in decisions involving historic preservation issues." As president, I look forward to guiding PACSJ in its continuing quest to preserve our historic structures. ♪

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Watchdog Report

There's some rumblin' going on in this domain of mine. That new head honcho who moved into that big doghouse on North First Street is diggin' holes into some of the (questionable?) deals made under the previous city and RDA administrations. I'm still suffering sore shoulders from trying to barge through some of those closed doors. Got a kink in my tail where it got caught just as I sneaked through one time. Lot of nervous staff and developers seeing their favorite projects turned topsy-turvy. My old pal Swenson received a \$2.8 mil loan from the RDA instead of an out-'n-out gift to restore the 1889 Letitia building. Not many free kibbles in anyone's doggie dish these days.

That same honcho continuously asserts that some of my dearest old buildings are to be saved and restored. I inherited the right to ramble my Grandpappy's old paths around downtown so I hope my favorite haunts are around for me to pass on to my descendents.

By golly, though, I'm still chasin' my tail and scratchin' in bewilderment, wondering when the Jose Theatre issue will be settled. And what about movin' the Montgomery Hotel? Doesn't seem to make sense to this ol' dog, but then humans don't always display the innate intelligence of us four-legged creatures. City/RDA staffers are experiencing the rigors of obedience school (I could have told them it's no snap course!) as hiz honor instructs them to spread a bit of that benevolence around San Jose's neighborhoods. Well, I like to travel, so I've got my knapsack ready. If I start my rambling in downtown, go just a bit north I can see what's goin' on with the old Borchers site (what is goin' on anyway?). East I can sneak a peek at the new Mexican Cultural Center, but I'm waitin' for the BIG one, joinin' the parade to escort that landmarked Giant Orange (Mark's Hot Dogs) on Alum Rock around the corner to its new location on Capitol. I LOVE a parade, so let's get marchin'!

West would bring me to the Del Monte plant. Another project which makes me salivate. Surely they would not desecrate that most-historic site of salivatory seduction! My longest journey will be south, I've gotta' keep an eye on that greenbelt boundary right on the edge of the fair cities of San Jose and Morgan Hill. Morgan Hill wants to build a school there but within San Jose's domain. Schools are good, but if you put a hole in that fence a whole pack of dogs could get in (I should know, I've breached many a fence in my time!). That free Sobrato land is hard to resist, but MH should sniff around for a spot more conducive to

good city-to-city relationships. Besides, us old dogs really need that rare-and-getting-rarer open space. Guard dogs to action!

So it's off to the hinterlands for me, I'll see you round and about!☞

The Dog

Continued from page 1

communication in San Jose's East Side Union School District and held positions in several faculty associations and committees. During those same years he studied with several prominent persons in the ceramic arts field and became a strong advocate for the arts. He left the educational field in 1970 and became a full-time studio potter. He held many positions in arts organizations, and his pottery was featured in a number of articles and publications over the years. He held workshops and conducted lectures all over the state and nation.

Rick's wife, Marcella, told us that within the last months of his life, Rick made the decision to donate his extensive private ceramics collection to Bemidji State University in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. Rick had met Margaret Harlow, an army nurse in WWII, whose alma mater was Bemidji University. Ms Harlow established a "hands-on" teaching ceramics collection at Bemidji, nothing under glass as most collections were, where students could examine and study the pieces. Rick visited Bemidji and was so impressed with the program that, true to his generous nature and love of teaching, one of his last actions was to donate his collection to further the study of ceramics.

When Rick became a member of PACSJ, it was a natural progression. His love of art and form fit well with his interest in the architecture of historic buildings and structures. He fought hard to preserve the art inherent in our bridges and historic structures. He was interested in the history behind the architecture, and listened and learned well. Rick was a good preservationist, and a good friend. *Sa'lut, Rick...we'll miss you.☞*

CALIFORNIA ROOM TO BENEFIT IN MEMORY OF RICK SHERMAN

In keeping with Rick's love of history, architecture and education, the decision was made to donate funds to San Jose's California Room at the Martin Luther King Library. The donated money will be used to buy books to enhance the California Room collection. Checks may be sent to PACSJ, P.O. Box 2287, San Jose, CA, 95109-2287, with the notation that it is for the California Room in Memory of Rick Sherman.☞

JOHN OLSON NEW PACSJ PRESIDENT



John Olson

In accordance with the bylaws of the Preservation Action Council of San Jose, the board of directors elected John Olson as President to complete the term of our deceased president, Rick Sherman. John has served on the board of directors for two years, and was elected vice-president in February of this year. He has fulfilled the duties of president during Rick's illness and has

proved to be a very capable leader. We hope you will each have the opportunity to meet John and that you will support him in his efforts to lead us through some very intense preservation efforts.

André Luthard, past president, has taken up the duties of vice-president, giving John his full support. PACSJ's next board of director's election will take place in February of 2000.☞

PACSJ'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PENNY-ROLLING PARTY

Bring those pennies you've been saving for a worthy cause and join the celebration! Our annual holiday party will be held Sunday, December 6th, at Casa Vicky, 792 East Julian Street (at 17th). Social hour will begin at 6pm, with dinner to follow at 7pm. Enjoy a variety of Mexican foods and a no-host full bar. Cost is \$15.00 per person, tax and tip included, with children 8 and under free. Reservations and prepayment are required, and must be received by Wednesday, December 1st. Limit 50 persons. Send your check and number of adults and children to PACSJ, P.O. Box 2287, San Jose, CA 95109-2287. Reservations will be confirmed by phone.☞

PACSJ MEMBER TO EXHIBIT PHOTOS

Y2k Historic Calendar Available

Photographer Gabriel Ibarra's works are scheduled to be exhibited beginning November 20th, at the new Biblioteca, 921 S. First St. in San Jose. The theme of the exhibit is "Agnews West Campus After the Fall." Ibarra has produced a new calendar for the year 2000 featuring photos of historic structures in the area. Members can order this fascinating calendar by calling Gabriel at 408-246-6788 or by e-mail, keebe@hotmail.com.☞

PACSJ PARTICIPATES IN TWO LOCAL EVENTS

Board Member Joann Williams planned and arranged for PAC to have a booth at The Alameda History Day at the end of September and Pumpkins In The Park in



Alameda History Day Booth visitors enjoy historic photos.



PACSJ Booth at Pumpkins in the Park, October 1999. Children enjoyed coloring Halloween pictures.

October. Visitors to the booth were fascinated with our historic photos and interested in hearing about our efforts to preserve historic structures. A big *Thank You* to the volunteers who set up and staffed our booth.☞

A STROLL ALONG EL DORADO STREET

by Ellen Garboske

The following excerpts were taken from a booklet titled *Recollections of Colorful El Dorado Street in Early San Jose*, written by local musician Leo Sullivan in 1964. Sullivan recounts his memories of traversing El Dorado Street (renamed Post Street in 1904) on his way to kindergarten classes at Notre Dame Convent.

...The sparsely travelled little street, named El Dorado, was located in the very heart of San Jose. Lined on one side with crude wooden shacks, it was the habitat of gaudily painted ladies, ladies of easy virtue, who exchanged their favors with none-too-discriminating males for a price, gold and silver coin of the realm... Sometimes when coming from kindergarten, I was perplexed by it all. My mother would always be busy when I arrived home, while the ladies of El Dorado Street could idle away the hours on their verandas showing off their pretty clothes.

By the time I had “graduated” from kindergarten my father, Patrick Sullivan, had moved his shop (boot maker) to the business district of El Dorado Street... Telephones, as yet, were a rarity, so any message between home and dad had to be transmitted via shanks mare—that meant me!” There was...“the Scandinavian Hotel, a magnet for Norwegians, Danes and Swedes of the valley. In my eyes all the Scandias were real giants. The hotel, of course, had the inevitable bar...Adjacent to the hotel, was Schilling’s Gun and Sporting Goods layout, headquarters for the huntsman...Next in line, Cole’s and Moak’s fancy barber shop, was real classy for that period. It boasted a large collection of mugs. As insurance, it was common practice for regular patrons to keep a personal shaving mug in their favorite tonsorial parlors. A facial scourge, the “Barber’s Itch,” was quite prevalent...Allogie’s Cigar Stand held down the corner of First Street; it catered to the dandies and sports that made the corner a rendezvous for their pals and, occasionally, their gals.

...toward Market Street a voluminous skirted Gypsy foretold futures at 25cents per head...Then, Bernhardt’s “Just Around the Corner Novelty Store”...Bloom’s Second-Hand Clothing with “Choice Bargains” came next. I can see portly Mr. Bloom sunning himself on the sidewalk, seated on a platform rocker, a skull cap protecting his bald pate from the onslaught of flies. (At this point let me tell that the present day generation knows nothing of the pests, flies are simply not in style any more.)

Next in line was another thirst emporium. This saloon featured a window with many live canaries. It stood on the corner of Lightstone Alley. In the center of the window a dead tree served as perch and roost for birds. The thirstery was taken over and run by Louis Albertini...Louis passed away while still owner of the old “Bird Saloon.”...another saloon on the opposite corner of Lightstone...was owned and run by Bert Haley. Bordering this was the office of Wells Fargo Express Co. on the northeast corner of Market Street.

Miller’s Saloon was directly across the street, on the southeast corner; it featured free lunch...Turel’s City Store had an outlet next to Miller’s where farm trade took on wheat, grain and barley in 100-lb sacks (gunny sacks), also farming implements and other country needs. This outlet was abutted by Hommerich’s Gun and Cutlery establishment, followed by a Salvation Army haven for down and outers.

The rest of the block as far as First Street clings with me through olfaction—Antione Delmas’ smoked hams and bacon, Baltz’ fresh French bread, and the tinkly little bell that announced customers. Finally, came Maloney’s (later Locicero’s) Fish and Game Market. All topped by the yeasty smell of San Jose’s pride and joy, Old Joe’s Steam Beer.” (At that time the odor of steam beer brewed at the Old Eagle Brewery wafted over all of downtown San Jose.)

There you have a picture of El Dorado Street through the eyes of a young boy around the turn of the century.☞

NEW BOOK ON BUNGALOWS

A few Naglee Park residents and PACSJ Board Member Marti Wachtel have homes pictured in a new book titled *Bungalow Style*. Written by another PACSJ board member, April Halberstadt, this all-color book of photography looks at bungalows across America and talks about the popularity of this type of house.

April is the author of seven books on various topics including a local history, *Willow Glen: Then and Now*, and several titles on agricultural life. April will be speaking at a slide show on Tuesday, November 16th at 7pm, presented by Willow Glen Books and the Willow Glen Friends of the Library. Her topic will be *Celebrating Bungalows: Looking at San Jose Homes Built — From 1895-1920*. The program will be held in the community room of the Willow Glen Public Library and there is no charge.☞

JULIA MORGAN, ARCHITECT

by Jack Douglas

Julia Morgan, one of the west's preeminent architects, was the first of her sex to enter that male dominated profession. Born in San Francisco in 1872, this petite young woman violated all conventions by being the first woman to graduate from the University of California School of Engineering, and the first, after much persistence, to enter the famed Ecole des Beaux-Arts of Paris as a student of architecture. Back in California she apprenticed with Bernard Maybeck and Galen Howard prior to opening her office in San Francisco in 1905.

In Julia Morgan's era being a pioneer female architect had its advantages, for during this time many facilities for women were being constructed, and Morgan was the logical architect to be selected. As a consequence many of the plans for YWCA buildings, women's clubs, Carnegie libraries and women's colleges in the west came from Morgan's drawing board. Her early projects for Phoebe Apperson Hearst brought her to the attention of Phoebe's son when he was planning his grandiose estate at San Simeon.

Morgan in San Jose

Much attention has been focused on her work in the East Bay and San Simeon, but little has been said about her projects in Santa Clara County. Perhaps this is not surprising because even her biographer, Sara Holmes Boutelle, was unclear on some of the projects in our county. (Julia was an extremely private person who would never give interviews or have her picture taken. Upon her retirement she destroyed all of her files and drawings.) It has been only recently that we discovered that the distinctive home at 1650 The Alameda was one of her designs.

This elegant two story home with the covered porte-cochere is a fine example of her domestic architecture. It was built in 1914 for James H. Pierce, president of the Pacific Manufacturing Company. It has been, for many years, the home and office of a local chiropractor.



*Portrait of Julia Morgan,
probably her passport photo*

Unfortunately the two other Morgan designed structures in San Jose no longer exist. The Braly house of 1916, formerly located at 105 South 11th Street, was demolished.



*1650 The Alameda designed by Morgan
Photo courtesy of Jack Douglas*

The San Jose YWCA, built in 1914, was razed in the mid-1970s to make way for redevelopment. This handsome building fit naturally into its urban setting much more effectively than the current YWCA. The interior of the beautifully designed ballroom was saved but, alas, left out in the weather, so that too is gone.



*Saratoga Foothill Club
Photo courtesy of Jack Douglas*

Buildings in the County

Morgan designed a number of buildings around the county including homes in Los Gatos and Palo Alto and the Saratoga Federated Church. Her most distinctive projects are the Saratoga Foothill Club and the MacArthur Park Restaurant in Palo Alto. Both are in the rustic craftsman style which she perfected in the collection of buildings now known as Asilomar in Pacific Grove.

The MacArthur Park building is from 1916 and was originally built as a YWCA hostess house at nearby Camp Fremont where army troops trained for World War I. Moved to its present site near the train station in 1919, it is open daily to the public.

The Oriental Building Doomed?

One interesting structure which is reputed to be an early Morgan design is the Oriental Building on the grounds of the old Montezuma School above Los Gatos (now a retreat for Catholic Sisters). Designed with many oriental touches this large building was moved to the school in 1911 from the Tevis Ranch. Badly damaged during the Loma Prieta quake in 1989, it has sat vacant for a decade and will be demolished unless it can

be moved to a friendly nearby location. The Los Gatos Museum Association is looking for a site to accommodate the Oriental Building. It would be a shame to lose one of our few remaining examples of Morgan's art in our County.



*San Jose YWCA, built in 1914, razed in mid-1970s
Postcard courtesy of Jack Douglas*

FINIALS AND FRETWORK

by April Halberstadt

Musings from a dedicated preservationist

General Plan Changes

Should we preserve old houses or tear them down? This year's General Plan changes for Council District 3 seem to go both ways. After more than a year of community meetings, the Reed's neighborhood south of San Jose State University will be changing their zoning, downzoning from high-density apartments to R-2, which allows only duplexes. In our opinion it's a change that does not go far enough, since it does not include blocks with some of the most significant and threatened architecture in the area. But it's a start and perhaps more blocks can be added next year.

Just a few blocks away the General Plan wants to change the land use. It's already zoned as General Commercial (C-2), something we find very troubling. The zoning map shows eighteen parcels involved and eight of them are residential structures. Six of the residences are on the historic inventory, three are Naglee Park bungalows and three are Victorian era houses built in the 1890s.

According to the zoning map, two of the parcels outlined are on the San Jose State campus and will never be developed. The remaining businesses on this corner include a laundromat, a 7-11, Robert's bookstore and the chapel for the Campus Ministry. We find it inconsistent that in one situation the planning department seems to be moving to a lower density, and just a few blocks away they seem to be intensifying the land use, allowing houses to be used for commercial business.

The General Plan for the City of San Jose is reviewed and updated once a year by the San Jose City Council. The General Plan is the document that guides the growth and development of our city. The plan sets construction guidelines such as the height of our buildings, the number of parking places allowed for each apartment and the size of our parks. Each Council District has a number of changes each year, and citizens are allowed to comment on the proposed additions and changes. The public hearings on this year's changes will be held in October and November.

Hoover Rebirth

There was lots to celebrate in the Rosegarden neighborhood in September as the historic Hoover School was rededicated. Once doomed to the wrecking ball, the building was saved by a group of extremely persistent neighbors. Their dedication to this local landmark over several

years of community organization and meetings deserves to be rewarded. Karen Vierra, a local parent, was one of the leading activists who went to dozens of school board meetings. Many others also contributed to the effort, including attorney Peter Uzzi and Kris Cunningham, the president of the Willow Glen Neighborhood Association.

Hoover School was first opened in 1931, built in the Spanish revival style that was popular in that time. The entry ways and halls feature intricate tile work designed and installed by master ceramicist Albert Solon, and the building has always been an attraction for tile collectors and aficionados. The beautiful building sits at the corner of Park and Naglee and is a focal point of the Rosegarden neighborhood.

There was always a great deal of local debate about whether the building needed to be closed. Structural reports showing potential seismic problems were reviewed and debated, and the community felt that SJUSD was only interested in selling the site to make money. The administrative offices for the district were located next door and SJUSD eventually succeeded in selling their office site for a housing development.

But the community eventually prevailed and Hoover School has once again been polished, preserved for new generations of local schoolchildren. It's a story with a happy ending, a great tribute to neighbors who cared. Preservationists note with great amusement that the building has found the absolutely perfect adaptive reuse. It's once again a school; the purpose for which it was originally designed.

This 'n That

The last cans of fruit cocktail are still rolling down the conveyors at the Del Monte plant on Auzerais and the developers are smacking their lips. Not about a dish of fruit cocktail...they are more interested in the possibilities of a big, juicy site for a new ball stadium. How about those A's in San Jose??

Look out Balbach Street neighbors! This little downtown neighborhood behind the Convention Center is on its way out; one more row of houses are boarded up and ready for demolition by our Redevelopment Agency. Add this body count to the houses along Almaden Boulevard that will go when the new office towers built by the Christina-Hall team and others get going. And then throw in the sixty-two homes that the new city hall will take out. It all begins to add up.

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

More 19th-century homes appear to be threatened in the San Jose State campus neighborhood as the San Jose Bible College plans to expand their campus on Orvis Avenue. Their plans include the eventual removal of sixteen houses and construction of a parking garage for 75 cars.

But the real game right now is going on just at the edge of San Jose, on Winchester Avenue across from Valley Fair Shopping Center. The University of California wants to abandon their 20-acre Agricultural Research Site, turning the property back over to the State of California. Our local state legislators, Alquist and Vasconcellos, presided at a community meeting on October 20 to hear comments from the public about the future of this land. With 1,400 new housing units being built on the Town and Country site just two blocks away, neighbors feel that open space for recreation is a very critical need.✍



Commanding General's Quarters

PACSJ TOURS HISTORIC SAN FRANCISCO PRESIDIO



Part of the group which enjoyed a sunny day touring historic structures.

Former PACSJ Board Member Cheryl Widell, Director of the Presidio Trust, and her staff arranged an insider's tour through the San Francisco Presidio in August. Members traveled by bus throughout the 1400 acres, with stops at many of the significant historic structures, some dating back to the 1860s. The 49 members that attended were able to tour the inside of the Commanding General's House, an Air Officer's house near Crissy Field, a typical enlisted man's house and several other structures. The group ate lunch in the historic 1937 Log Cabin, where they were treated to a talk and slides

showing plans to preserve the many buildings and sites within the Presidio grounds. The trip was much too short, and the trip ended with many expressing plans to return soon to see the "rest of the story."✍



Officers Quarters on the San Francisco Presidio

JOICE/BERNAL RANCH RESTORATION TO BEGIN IN SPRING

by Mike Boulland

President, Friends of Santa Teresa Park

Good news has been announced for the restoration of the Joice/Bernal home as the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department accepted a bid to begin restoring the site to its 1890-1930 period. The reconstruction is in the final phase of a historical project started nine years ago. The new construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2000 and to be completed that summer.

Several barns and outbuildings will be restored to their original state. The caretaker's house, an old single walled bunkhouse, will be restored to house a security Park Ranger. The original large barns will be restored and used for classroom instruction and to display interpretation. The restored home will be furnished with period ranch furniture and household items. The grounds will be improved with an orchard, paths and drainage, and new restrooms will be constructed.

Extra funding was granted by the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission for the interior wall construction, interpretive signs and display cases. The planning has been so well designed by the parks department that the interpretive phase of the project will be up and running shortly after construction is completed. A two-day a week interpretive ranger has been hired and is creating new educational programs for the site.

The first phase, building paths and decking around the famous Santa Teresa Springs site, was completed earlier this year. The new decking provides a safe access to the shrine and magical grotto, where visitors will hear enchanting ancient native American tales and legends, including the legend of the "Black Robed Woman" which has been told at the site for over three thousand years.

The opening of the Rancho Santa Teresa Historic District will provide school children with an important educational resource lacking in our valley historical sites. The one-mile district will allow students to see first hand what it was like to live on a large rancho. Rancho Santa Teresa's history is linked with many important historic events in our local history as well as the formation of the state of California. The rancho was a major stop on the El Camino and many early California colorful characters visited the ranch. The rancho played an important role in the 1844 Battle of Santa Teresa, and the Bernal family was involved with supplying Mr. Sutter with needed supplies to build his fort.

John C. Fremont recognized the rancho's influence and camped nearby for many months.

The story of the Bernal family is well documented in newspapers, books and official legal records. Perhaps the most delightful characteristics of the site are the enchanting tales from its rich rancho era. Visitors to the site will be entertained with tales of Changarra's buried treasure, the Legend of Santa Teresa, Santa Teresa Springs, the Bear Tree, bull and bear fights, quicksilver mining and legal court cases, in addition to the native American legends.

We are fortunate to have saved this important site for the future education and enjoyment of our children and the residents of the valley. The site will help teach the struggles and glory of our heritage from prehistoric to postmodern man, and provide our children a spot to be grounded in local history. The Rancho Santa Teresa Historical District would have been lost, and a major part of our heritage disappeared, if it had not been for the vision of Paul Romero, Mike Honda, Jim Cuneen, Mark Fredrick, Paul Bernal, Kitty Monahan, the Historic Heritage Commission, the Parks Commission and Mike Boulland.☞

Editor's Note: The preservation of the Joice/Bernal Ranch was one of the first projects PACSJ worked on when the property was threatened by development. It's rewarding to see this preserved historic site come to fruition.



Landmark Germania Hall Damaged by Fire

The historic Germania Hall was extensively damaged when it caught fire in August. Designated a San Jose City Historic Landmark, the wooden structure housed the Germania Verein (social club) and restaurant. Built in 1895, the hall was designed by prominent architect Frank Delos Wolfe as the city's first concert hall. Known at that time as King's Conservatory of Music, this structure was the early home of the San Jose Symphony. The fire did extensive damage to the roof, attic and upper floor of the hall, leaving the adjoining kitchen and restaurant largely unscathed. Members of the Verein and local preservationists await word on the feasibility of restoring this important historic building.☞

Continued from page 1

and materials have been salvaged to allow recreation of the historic interior. Also many features of the original lobby are still intact and should survive the move.

The historic consultant from Architectural Resources Group determined that the mosaic floor in the hotel lobby could be removed and reinstalled at the new site, which is approximately 150 feet south of the Montgomery's original location. Unfortunately the wonderful ballroom in the annex has been demolished because there was inadequate clearance for the annex at the hotel's new location. Visit our web site (www.preservation.org) for more information and pictures of the ballroom. At the end of the current project the building will undergo seismic retrofit, the exterior will be restored and the hotel will be ready for interior restoration.

We have word that several boutique hotel developers are interested in the building. This, combined with Mayor Gonzales' vision for historic preservation, gives us reason to believe that in the not too distant future we may be dining or staying overnight in T.S. Montgomery's hotel on South First Street.



Montgomery Hotel Lobby circa 1920s

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CALENDAR



The Preservation Action Council of San Jose is a nonprofit membership organization providing information to property owners and education to the public, and promoting programs and policies for historic preservation and compatible new architectural design.

NOVEMBER
13 (SAT) JAPANTOWN WINTER ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE SJ BUDDHIST CHURCH GYMNASIUM, 640 N. FIFTH ST., 10AM TO 4PM
15 (MON) PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7PM MOTHER OLSON'S INN, 72 NORTH FIFTH STREET
18-19 HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR & BOOK SALE SANTA CLARA VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 10AM TO 2PM SCVMC CAFETERIA, 2ND FLOOR, TO BENEFIT HISTORY OF MEDICINE MUSEUM
DECEMBER
5 (SUN) PACSJ HOLIDAY PARTY/PENNY ROLLING EVENT CASA VICKY, SEE PAGE 5
NOTE: NO PACSJ BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING IN DECEMBER
JANUARY
17 (MON) PACSJ OPEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, 7PM MOTHER OLSON'S INN, 72 NORTH FIFTH STREET
SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 13-15, 2000 CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

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